benefit to States belonging to the Eastern and North Eastern regions of India.

Construction of Rammam Hydel Project

1357. SHRI DAWA LAMA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the works for construction of Rammam Hydel Project Stage I, III and IV have been awarded to some Private Companies under joint ventures;

(b) the details of agreement reached between State Government and the executing companies; and

(c) by when the projects are likely to come under commercial operations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Cooperative Societies for production and distribution of Power

1358. SHRI SHIV CHARAN SINGH:
SHRI GOVINDRAM. MIRI:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Rural Electrification Corporation is providing any cooperation/assistance in the setting up of rural power cooperative societies for the production and distribution of power in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Assam;

(b) if so, the details of such societies being assisted by the Corporation at present;

(c) the details of financial and other assistance provided by,the above States to such societies during 1995-96 and 1996-97;

(d) whether some new proposals for setting up of rural power cooperative societies in these States have been received; and

(e) if so, the formalities needed for setting up these societies for obtaining assistance from the Corporation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) Rural Electrification Corporation is providing financial assistance to rural electric cooperatives for distribution of power.

(i) In Madhya Pradesh, Rural Electrification Corporation has financed 17 such Rural Electric Cooperatives. Of these 16 societies (with the exception of Sidhi RE Cooperative Society) have been put under the charge of S.E. (O&M) of District of Madhya Pradesh Electricity Board by a State Government Order after superseding the existing Boards of cooperative societies.

(ii) In Rajasthan, 3 RE Cooperatives have been financed by REC which have since been liquidated by the State Government.

(iii) No such assistance has been given to the Assam State for RE Cooperatives as no projects has been formulated by the Assam State Electricity Board.

(b) Details of financial assistance provided by REC to RE Cooperatives in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan are given in the Statement I & II respectively, *(see* below)

(c) No financial assistance has been disbursed by REC during 1995-96 and 1996-97 to RE Cooperatives in these three States for reason stated in (a) above.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) In view of (d) above, does not arise.